

# AIRS - AMSR-E Total Water Vapor Comparisons

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### **JGR Paper in preparation:**

#### **Comparison of Total Water Estimates from AIRS and AMSR-E**

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### **Approach and Goals**

#### **Approach**

- Take advantage of AMSR-E strength: total water vapor for non-precipitating clouds.
  - ...but, AMSR-E calibration 'challenges' mean quantities are regressed against a variety of correlative data sets.

#### **Goals of Comparison**

- 1. Conditions giving consistency between the two data sets.
- 2. Quantify information added by infrared channels / cloud clearing.
- 3. Understand effects of HSB loss.
- 4. Scan-angle effects.
- 5. Climatological biases in mean fields.
  - For both microwave-only and full AIRS retrievals.
  - Implications for height-resolved water vapor climatologies and process studies.





### The Advance Microwave Scanning Radiometer for Eos (AMSR-E)

- A conically-scanning microwave radiometer on Aqua
  - Follow-on to SSM/I
  - Constant emission angle
  - Sampling interval ~10 km, placed on 0.25 degree grid.
  - Over-ocean measurements of
    - Sea ice concentration
    - Cloud liquid water
    - Precipitation amount
    - Surface wind speed
    - Sea surface temperature
    - Precipitable water vapor
- All over-water AIRS FOVs have matched, instantaneous AMSR-E observations (except at highest scan angles).



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### **Six Possible Cases for AIRS-AMSR Matches**

(by decreasing yield)

	Case 1 MW-Only with AMSR	Case 2 Full Ret with AMSR	<u>Case 3</u> AMSR Only	Case 4 MW-Only No AMSR	<u>Case 5</u> Full Ret No AMSR	Case 6 No Nothing
AIRS Full Retrieval  Qual_Cloud_OLR = 0	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Qual_Temp_Bot = 0						
AIRS MW Partial Petrieval  Qual_Cloud_OLR = 0  Qual_Temp_Bot = 1	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
AMSR-E Water Vapor Retrieval	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No





### 50S - 50N Over-Ocean Yields by Case (Percent of total counts) for Two Periods

		Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6	Total counts
2003.12.25-		MW Ret	Full Ret	AMSR	MW Ret	Full Ret	No	
2003.01.09		w/AMSR	w/AMSR	Only	Only	Only	Nothing	
	Combined	41	35	12	4	3	2	2,081,022
	Day/Night	40 / 42	36 / 34	12 / 12	4 / 4	4 / 3	2 / 1	49 / 50
2003.05.01-								
2003.05.16								
	Combined	37	42	11	3	3	1	2,065,666
	Day Night	37 / 37	42 / 43	11 / 12	3 / 3	3 / 2	1 / 1	49 / 50

#### Notes:

- No significant day/night biases in yields, but...
   January to May yields for Cases 1 & 2 shift by ~5%.
   -Due to lost HSB or seasonal differences?
- About 12 percent of AIRS FOVs have AMSR, but no AIRS retrieval.





### 50S - 50N means can vary...

	AMSR Mean, Cases 1-3	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5
2003.12.25-2003.01.09		AMSR / AIRS	AMSR / AIRS	AMSR Only	AIRS MW only	AIRS Full Ret
Global Combined	29.0 mm	-1.6 / -2.7 %	1.6 / 1.0 %	14.0 %	0.3 %	-0.6 %
Day	30.6 mm	-2.0 / -1.9 %	-9.0 / -9.1 %	10.4 %	-3.6 %	-9.7 %
Night	27.6 mm	-1.2 / -3.6 %	10.8 / 9.8 %	17.3 %	3.7 %	8.6 %
2003.05.01-2003.05.16						
Global Combined	30.4 mm	2.2 / -1.8 %	4.6 / 1.3 %	10.5 %	1.1 %	2.8 %
Day	31.3 mm	0.7 / -1.4 %	-2.4 / -4.9 %	8.4 %	-2.7 %	-6.2 %
Night	29.4 mm	3.7 / -2.2 %	11.1 / 7.0 %	12.6 %	4.9 %	11.5 %

MW-only means always near AMSP mean.

AMSR-only always wetter than AMSR mean.

Full retrieval biases vary over ±10 %,
BUT track matched AMSR.



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# Global results suggest *local* differences, => Look at maps of differences.

#### Approach

- Generate maps of mean water vapor for Cases 1-5
- Look at fractional differences in biases relative to AMSR-E means.

#### Biases we will see are due to sampling differences.

· ...so the fundamental retrieval methodologies appear sound

--BUT--

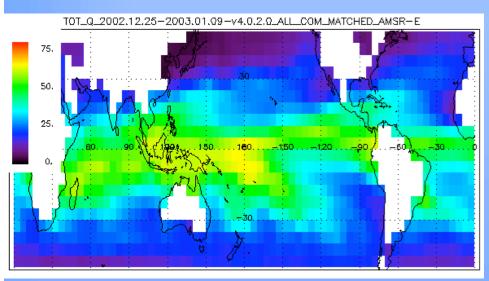
### Sampling biases in total water have important implications for height-resolved climatologies from AIRS

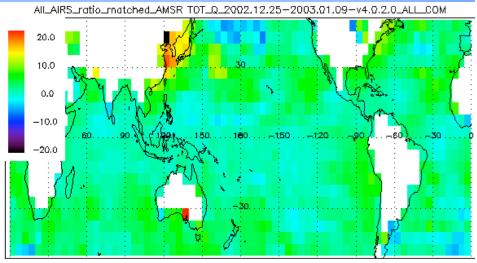
· ...though any data (AIRS) is better than little or none!





### Mean climatologies agree best with matched FOVs (Cases 1 and 2)





**AIRS-AMSR Percent Difference** 

AMSR Mean (Cases 1 & 2) 16 days, winter 02-03

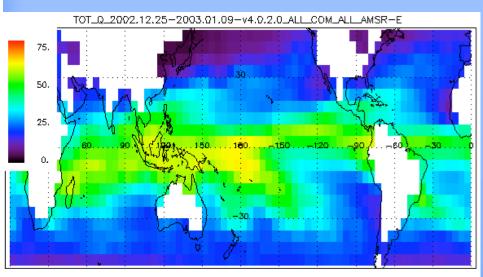
AIRS Qual\_Cloud\_OLR = 0 (Cases 1 & 2); 100.\*[Mean(AIRS)-Mean(AMSR)] / Mean(AMSR)

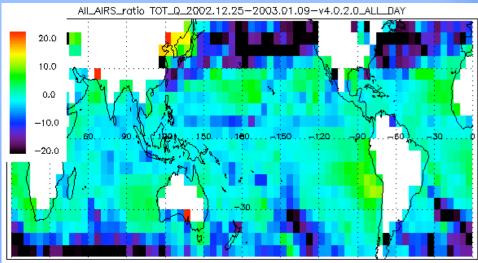




### BUT, compare climatologies carefully...

### E. g., larger *regional* sampling biases for means over all AMSR versus all AIRS





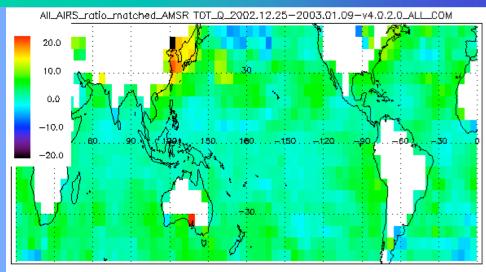
AMSR Mean, Cases 1-3 16 days, winter 02-03

AIRS Case 1 & 2 Percent Difference Relative to AMSR to left

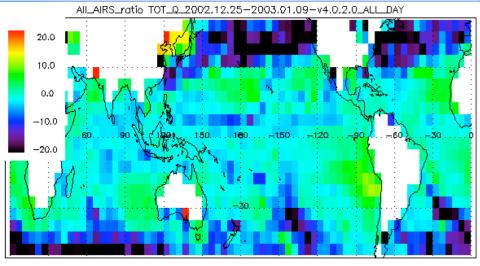


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# Rehashing last two comparisons: Case 3 matters, though only 12% of all FOVs!



AIRS (Case 1 & 2) Percent Difference
Relative to Matched AMSR (Cases 1 & 2)



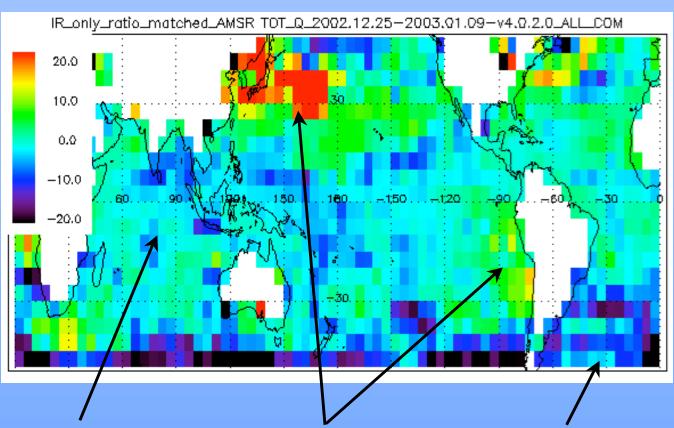
AIRS (Case 1 & 2) Percent Difference Relative to All AMSR (Cases 1, 2 & 3)

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Jet Propulsion Laboratory Comparing the 'best' from both instruments gives
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#### AIRS full retrievals (Case 2) relative to All AMSR (Cases 1-3)

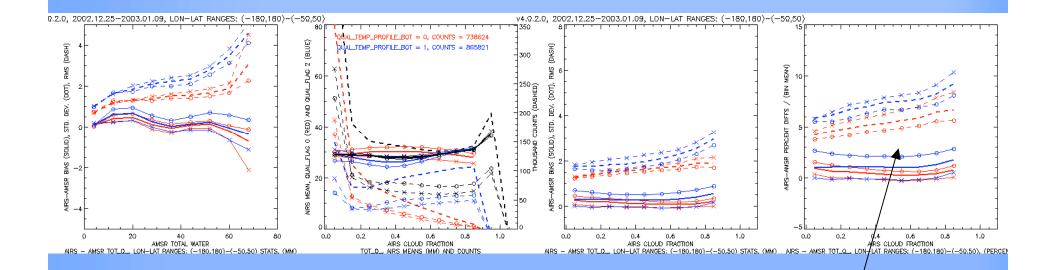


AIRS is: Mostly neutral to dry; WET in stratus regions; DRY in heavy clouds





### Differences by Total Water and Cloud Amount



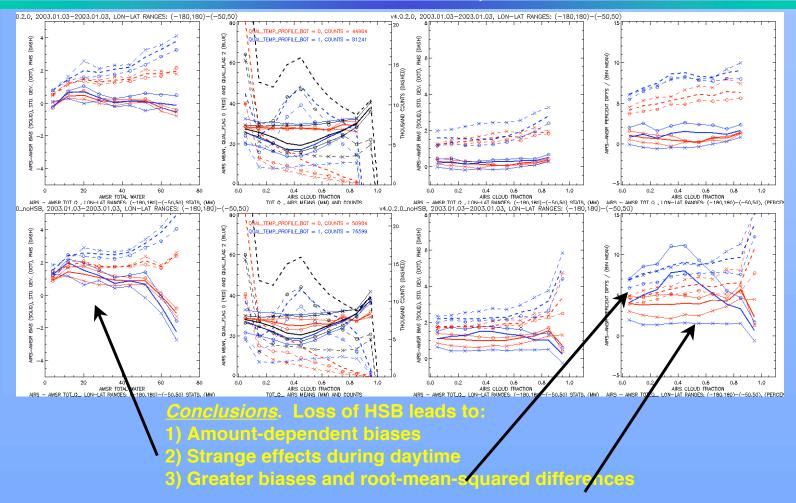
Conclusion: Cloud clearing does not introduce biases by cloud amount, and IR adds information.



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### Effect of Loss of HSB 50S-50N, 3 Jan 2003



These need to be examined systematically with 16 days of retrievals.





### Some Conclusions: Sampling Biases

Globally, AIRS is slightly drier than matched AMSR-E.

--- but ---

- The local picture is more complex:
  - Full AIRS retrievals are wetter in stratus regions
    - MW adds some information in cold air outbreaks, but not in subtropical stratus
    - <u>Hypothesis</u>: stratus regions are doudy and dry => AIRS not observing prevalent conditions.
  - Means over all AIRS retrievals are drier in midlatitude storm systems and other regions with high clouds
    - <u>Hypothesis</u>: high, thick douds lead to fewer AIRS retrievals, and are correlated with wetter underlying atmospheric.
  - About 10% of AIRS oceanic FOVs have no AIRS retrievals, but include AMSR-E information. Most commonly seen in high-latitude storms. These (AMSR-only) FOVs are wetter than average.
    - <u>Hypothesis</u>: doudier regions are wetter and more likely to be precipitating over an AMSU FOV => no AIRS / AMSU retrieval. AMSR-E better able to discern precipitating douds.





### **Closing Remarks and Future Work**

### Cloud clearing:

- Cloud-cleared radiances have more information than microwave, based on RMS differences.
- · Full retrievals are not biased with cloud amount.
- The loss of HSB leads to amount-dependent biases.
  - Now comparing 16 days with and without HSB to better understand this.

#### Climatologies:

- A complete AIRS water vapor climatology (including one from profiles) will require careful interpretation by atmospheric state.
  - Atmospheric processes are a critical part of the interpretation.





### **Next steps**

- Microwave Limb Sounder on Aura measures water vapor in the upper troposphere
  - Potential for analyses like the AMSR-E comparison shown here, but for height-resolved water vapor.
    - · Bill Read of MLS team has started this.
- Annmarie Eldering is comparing AIRS and TES water vapor retrievals.